

# MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings†

**California Medical Association.** Session will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-fifth annual session, to be held in 1946, will be announced later.

**American Medical Association.** The 1946 Session is scheduled for San Francisco. Date not yet announced.

### The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of these of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick or proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

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6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical service and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Ed. Note.—Interpretative comments on principles included in the A.M.A. platform appear in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* for December, 1939, on pages 394-395. For subsequent comment, see *J.A.M.A.*, June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576. Also, August, 1945, *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, pp. 61-62.)

### Medical Broadcasts\*

**The Los Angeles County Medical Association:**

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays:

KFAC presents the Saturday programs at 10:15 a.m., under the title, "Your Doctor and You."

In September, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the following Saturdays: September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a.m., under the title, "The Road to Health."

"Doctors at War":

For radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, see *J.A.M.A.*

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week. In *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE*, some rosters appear in every second or third issue.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

### Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians\*:

1. *On the Sociological Front:* Worth reading is L. Mumford's *City Development: Studies in Disintegration and Renewal*; maybe Honolulu should have followed Mumford's advice (Harcourt, Brace, N. Y., 248 pp., \$2, 1945). B. Malinowski analyses *The Dynamics of Culture Change* (Yale Press, New Haven, 171 pp., \$2.50, 1945). Laura Thompson and Alice Joseph discuss *The Hopi Way* (to peace), and note high IQ of Hopi children (University Chicago Press, 151 pp., \$3, 1945). D. Abrahamson dilates on *Crime and the Human Mind* (Columbia University Press, N. Y., 244 pp., \$3, 1944). Do you know the Social Work Year Books? 8th issue, 1945, edited by R. H. Kurtz, 620 pp., at \$3.25, from Russell Sage Foundation, N. Y. Along the usual line is O. S. English and G. H. J. Pearson's *Emotional Problems of Living: Avoiding the Neurotic Pattern* (Norton, N. Y., 438 pp., \$5, 1945). M. F. A. Montagu concludes that intelligence tests at last war show correlation with socio-economic history (*Amer. J. Psych.*, 58:161, 1945). J. N. Morris examines health of 440 millions in India, in light of population crisis, and sees little hope (*Lancet*, 1:743, June 16, 1945). V. Bush looks at tomorrow, bravely speculating on how we may think mechanically with logic machines (*Atlantic*, 176:101, July, 1945). And what is your idea of Federal subsidy for scientific work? C. Binger gives excellent and brief popularization of *The Doctor's Job* (Norton, N. Y., \$3.50, 1945).

2. *On Cells and Tissues:* R. Hober offers important *Physical Chemistry of Cells and Tissues* (Blakiston, Philadelphia 5, \$9, 1945). Volume 5 of *Advances in Enzymology and Related Subjects* is edited by F. F. Nord and C. H. Werkman (Interscience Publ., N. Y., 268 pp., \$5.50, 1945). E. Schrodinger also asks *What Is Life?* (Macmillan, N. Y., 91 pp., \$1.75, 1945). R. A. Moore edits Volume 11 of Biological Symposia on *Ageing and Degenerative Diseases* (Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pa., 242 pp., \$3, 1945). R. A. Moore also offers new text on Pathology (W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia 5, 1338 pp., \$10, 1945).

3. *On Antibiotics:* L. F. Moldavsky & Co. of Harmon Gen. Hosp. warn against danger of thrombus formation with high doses of penicillin and suggest its use as a coagulant in hemorrhagic diseases (*Science*, 102:38, July 13, 1945). L. Loewe & Co. report plasma conc. of p-aminohippuric acid of 10 mgm./100 cc. (non-toxic) greatly prolongs penicillin action (*Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. Med.*, 58, 298, 1945). J. T. Weld notes antibiotic action of extracts of *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss) (*Ibid.*, 59:40, 1945). J. A. Herrick observes fungicidal action of clavacin (*Ibid.*, p. 41). D. Jones & Co. find evidence for antiviral action of actinomycin A (*Science*, 101:665, June 29, 1945). D. Perlstein & Co. propose urinary estimation of glucuronic acid as measure of penicillin absorption (*Science*, 101:562, June 1, 1945). W. F. Elias and J. Durso note little absorption of streptomycin from gut and possible presence of body inhibitor (*Ibid.*, p. 589, June 8, 1945). S. Waksman proposes excellent method for standardization of streptomycin (*Science*, 102:40, July 13, 1945). W. M. M. Kirby

\* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacological Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

describes properties of penicillin inactivator from penicillin resistant Staph. (*J. Clin. Invest.*, 24:165-175, 1945).

4. *On Hormones:* Just noted is comprehensive discussion of synthetic hormones by G. Masson (*Rev. Canad. Biol.*, 3:491-582, 1944). J. P. Chu and S. S. You (Chengtu), offer evidence that follicle stimulating and luteinizing hormones of pituitary are under direct regulation of thyroid (*J. Endocrin.*, 4:115, 1945). J. E. Caldwell & Co. find specific agent in bone marrow able to stimulate leucopoiesis in benzene poisoned rabbits (*Am. J. Med. Sci.*, 209:717, 1945). I. J. Kligler & Co. observe that environmental change from dry to humid with constant temperature activates thyroid, explaining our pep at Galveston (*Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. Med.*, 58:286, 1945).

5. *On Varia:* E. A. Stead, Jr. & Co., report neat studies on cardiac output (*J. Clin. Invest.*, 24:326-344, 1945). A. M. Martinex offers full survey of leucocyte variations in pulmonary Tb (*Publ. Cent. Invest. Tisiol.*, 8:281-420, 1945). C. Torda and H. G. Wolff claim muscle fatigue may be result of decrease in local synthesis of acetyl-choline during prolonged muscle contractions (*Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. Med.*, 59:13, 1945). P. A. Neal and Co. report fully on low toxicity and potential danger of aerosols containing DDT (Supplements No. 177 and 183 to *Pub. Health Rep.*, Washington, 1945). J. M. Schneck offers interesting bibliography on bibliography (Psychiatrists, please note!) and hospital libraries (*Bull. Med. Lib. Assoc.*, 33:341, 1945). G. King and L. T. Ride correlate thiamine deficiency with pregnancy toxemia (*J. Obs. Gyn. Brit. Emp.*, 52:130, 1945). C. P. G. Wakeley skillfully analyses effects of underwater explosions on human body (*Lancet*, 1:715, June 9, 1945).

**Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine.**—The Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine, established in 1944 by Mr. Bernard M. Baruch of New York, with a gift of \$1,190,000, is achieving results beyond its most hopeful expectations. This is made clear in its first annual report.

In creating the committee and bestowing his benefaction in April, 1944, Mr. Baruch announced that its purpose would be to advance and encourage the knowledge and practice of physical medicine throughout the nation and the world—with the special aim of bringing its benefits to disabled veterans of the war, and assisting in their rehabilitation and restoration to working health and usefulness.

The committee states: Physical medicine is that branch of medical science which, in conjunction with or succeeding surgery and hospitalization, undertakes the long course of restoration to working activity by the employment of heat, light, water, electricity, massage, manipulation, exercise and mechanical devices. It is a field brought into prominence and importance by the last war and rendered immeasurably important by the present one, both to the medical profession and mankind. The field, previously, had been imperfectly understood and much neglected.

The medical schools of ten universities and colleges—their chain extending clear across the United States—are participating in the original gift of \$1,190,000 by Mr. Baruch, and the report lists the various activities and achievements which have been made possible to them by its bestowal.

In the list of grants to different institutions, the University of Southern California becomes the recipient of an allocation of \$30,000.

The chairman of the Baruch Committee on Physical Medicine is Doctor Ray Lyman Wilbur, Chancellor of Stanford University.

**Medical Bill.**—With the nation's medical bill in 1944 totaling 4 billion dollars and a capital investment in hospital plant and equipment of six billions, medicine today is one of the big businesses of America. The direct consumers of medical care paid 3 billions of last year's bill, expenditures by federal, state and local governments were 800 millions, and the balance was contributed by industry and philanthropy, a survey revealed.

**Scholarships for Physical Education Courses.**—In a recent announcement, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, with headquarters at 120 Broadway, New York 5, states that it has allocated an appropriation of \$1,267,600 by the National Foundation which makes it possible to offer scholarships to young men and women who have been graduated from accredited schools of nursing or physical education, or who have completed a minimum of two years of college work with emphasis on biology and other basic sciences. Candidates with the proper prerequisites will be trained at physical therapy schools approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.

This program was developed with the advice of a special committee composed of Dr. Irvin A. Abell, of Louisville, Ky., chairman, and Dr. Donald B. Armstrong, of New York; Dr. Max M. Peet, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Dr. Morris Fishbein, of Chicago; Dr. Arthur L. Watkins, of Boston; Dr. M. G. Westmoreland of Chicago; Miss Jessie Stevenson, of New York, president of the American Physiotherapy Association; Miss Lucille Daniels, acting director of the division of physical therapy, Stanford University, Calif.; Dr. Don W. Gudakunst, medical director of the National Foundation; Miss Catherine Worthingham, director of technical education for the Foundation, and Basil O'Connor.

The committee feels that the lack of qualified physical therapists today has hindered physicians from making a wider use of physical therapy in various medical specialties.

**Recent Mortality Rates for United States.**—The general death rate for the United States for the first quarter of 1945, as estimated from a 10 per cent mortality sample, is 11.3 per 1,000 population. This is 7 per cent lower than the corresponding rate of 12.1 for the same months of 1944.

In comparing the mortality experience for the first quarter of 1945 with that for the first quarter of 1944, it should be pointed out that death rates for the respiratory diseases and consequently the general death rate are subject to considerable variation. In the 11-year period 1933 to 1943 the general death rate for the United States varied from a maximum of 13.3 in 1937 to a minimum of 11.3 in 1942. Thus, it will be seen that the base with which comparison is made is somewhat high and that the first quarter rate for 1945 compares favorably, not only with that for the preceding year, but also with the low rate for the corresponding period of 1942.

The more favorable mortality record for the first quarter of this year over that for last year comes principally from lower death rates for pneumonia and influenza and the cardiovascular-renal group of diseases. Last year there was an increased mortality from these causes as a result of an epidemic of upper respiratory infections. The pneumonia and influenza death rate for the current quarter (37.7 per 100,000 population) is only about three-fifths as high as that for the first 3 months of 1944, and is lower than in any previous first quarter. The death rate for the cardiovascular-renal group of diseases accounted for about half of the total deaths was 5 per cent lower in the first quarter of this year than in the

same period last year, and was approximately the same as the first quarter of 1943.

**Information for Disabled Veterans.**—The "Public Affairs Committee," 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, is a non-profit educational organization that has brought out many interesting pamphlets. A recent brochure has the title, "Straight Talk for Disabled Veterans." The authors describe a number of actual instances out of tens of thousands that could be cited to prove that men bearing all kinds of physical losses can achieve economic independence and build for themselves lives that are as satisfying and happy as anyone's. They point out that one company alone employs nearly 12,000 disabled men on regular jobs. They tell of cases in which men earned more after being disabled than before their injury.

Disabled men are warned, however, that success does not come without great effort. They are urged to co-operate with their physicians and nurses in activities designed to overcome the effects of their injuries, and to get the best training possible for their future jobs.

By law the disabled veteran is guaranteed an opportunity to prepare for work in which he will not find himself at an economic disadvantage. But the veterans are warned that the law is not going to be of much help unless they take some responsibility for discovering and training for the kind of work they are capable of doing.

**University of California Plans Continuation Courses for Dentists.**—Continuation courses in dentistry for dental officers returning from the armed services or for dentists who wish to review the latest phases of dentistry are being planned by the College of Dentistry, on the San Francisco campus of the University of California.

Sixteen types of classes are being scheduled, including two to six weeks' intensive instruction in the handling of certain difficult problems, and others to continue for one or more semesters will prepare for advanced specialties such as orthodontics or prosthesis. Graduate studies will be offered for those students who wish to specialize in dental medicine or build up a biological background for research and teaching.

Dr. Gordon Fitzgerald, head of the division of dental roentgenology, is in charge of the program. There is an excellent opportunity for returning dental officers to study for dental specialties, since they will not have established practices to leave or office overhead to worry about.

**Bulletins of the Health Advisory Council of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.**—The Washington, D. C., office of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, through its "Health Advisory Council," from time to time sends to the newspaper and magazines, releases dealing with health and disease problems. The value of this educational work is hard to estimate. Excerpts from their Bulletins follow:

*Health Education Sponsored by Doctors Reduces Appendicitis Deaths by Two Thirds.*—Deaths of patients with acute appendicitis in one state decreased from 3.39 per cent to 1.1 per cent in five years as a result of preventive medicine and surgery and increased public knowledge.

The latest report of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society's Commission on Acute Appendicitis Mortality shows that public health education stimulated by doctors, and aided by schools, civic organizations, and other lay groups, saves lives.

In Pennsylvania, where the State Medical Society has been very active in educating the public regarding appen-

dititis, the number of deaths from appendicitis-peritonitis has been reduced from 1,252 in 1930, to 886 in 1940, and 624 in 1942.

The commission's report shows that delay in seeking medical attention or in going to a hospital, and the taking of laxatives are the all-important controllable factors in deaths from acute appendicitis. The danger to acute appendicitis patients from taking laxatives more than doubled from 1937 to 1942, the Pennsylvania study revealed, as is shown in the following table:

1937		1942
1 in 6 died	No laxative taken	1 in 3 died
1 in 4 died	One laxative taken	1 in 2 died
1 in 4 died	More than one laxative taken	2 in 3 died

Good advice regarding appendicitis is contained on stickers which Pennsylvania doctors are using as seals on letters, and distributing through schools, as follows:

#### APPENDICITIS—PLAY SAFE!

##### THAT PAIN IN YOUR STOMACH MAY MEAN

1. Take NO laxatives, liquids or food.
2. See your DOCTOR at once.
3. Go to the hospital if he advises operation.

REMEMBER—laxatives and delay cause spreading peritonitis and death—1 in every 3 cases.

PLAY SAFE WITH YOUR OWN LIFE—DON'T DELAY!

(Signed) *Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.*

*Polio Precautions:* August and September are the months during which the yearly peak of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, cases occurs in most localities, and during which it is advisable to keep in mind precautions that help prevent spread of the disease.

The most important fact to remember about infantile paralysis is to call a doctor promptly for anyone who has any of its symptoms. These include moderate fever, headache, vomiting and constipation, drowsiness alternating with irritability, stiffness of neck and spine, trembling and other signs which a doctor can detect better than a patient.

Although the chances of an individual acquiring infantile paralysis are ordinarily only about 1 in 10,000 during a year, and only 1 in several hundred even during an epidemic, precautions are advisable when poliomyelitis is prevalent.

Important poliomyelitis control measures include:

Early diagnosis and reporting of the disease; isolation of infected persons for two weeks from onset; immediate disinfection of all nose, throat, or other bodily discharges of infected persons, and of articles soiled by such discharges; search for and expert diagnosis of sick children to locate unrecognized and unreported cases.

During epidemics all children with fever should be isolated in bed until they have been examined by a doctor; bed rest is particularly important for persons found to have the disease. Children should be protected as much as possible against unnecessary contact with persons outside their own homes during epidemics. Unnecessary travel, physical strain, and nose and throat operations should be avoided when the prevalence of poliomyelitis is high.

*On the meaning of "Psychosomatic Medicine":* One of the newest phrases in your doctor's vocabulary is "psychosomatic medicine," and you should know what it means to understand an interesting and important new strategy developed by physicians in their fight against ill health.

In everyday language, "psychosomatic" means "mind-body." "Psychosomatic Medicine" is concerned with the way emotional and physical disturbances influence each

other, particularly with bodily disorders which are brought on, made worse, or prolonged by emotional disturbances.

Physical illnesses which doctors have found to be frequently caused by or associated with disturbed emotions include gastric ulcer, constipation, some skin diseases, headaches, asthma, high blood pressure, various heart diseases, rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease, diabetes, and even broken bones.

Physicians tell us that very often the patient is not consciously aware of the emotional disturbance that is causing his heart or stomach trouble, or some other physical disorder; the original cause of the upset emotions may have occurred years previous to the physical illness.

Jealousy, repressed fear or rage, resentment, and guilt are some of the emotions which may affect the nervous system and, in turn, the organs or tissues of the body in such a way as to bring on physical illness that prescriptions or surgery alone cannot cure.

**California Heart Association Meetings.**—The Annual Postgraduate Symposia on Heart Disease held under the auspices of the California Heart Association will be given as follows:

In *San Francisco*, on October 17, 18, 19 and 20 (Wednesday through Saturday). Physicians may register with the San Francisco Heart Committee, 604 Mission Street, San Francisco, 5, Mrs. Gladys Daniloff, Secretary.

In *San Diego*, on October 22nd (Monday). Symposium is sponsored by the San Diego County Medical Society. (Dinner meeting place to be announced later.)

In *Los Angeles*, on October 24, 25, and 26 (Wednesday through Friday). Physicians may register with the Los Angeles Heart Association, 117 West 9th Street, Los Angeles, 15, Mrs. Ruth Lynch, Executive Secretary.

Among the guest speakers will be Dr. Samuel A. Levine of Boston, Colonel Irving S. Wright, U. S. Army Medical Corps, Dr. James J. Waring, Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**What G. I.'s Want When They Return.**—While Drew Pearson was on vacation Sgt. Max Novack, who writes "What's Your Problem?" for *Yank*, the Army weekly, contributed a guest column on the returning soldier. The following excerpts are from "Washington Merry-Go-Round" in *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 27):

... The chief thing that the man in uniform wants is to return to civilian ways of life. No one who has not had to forego the right of individual action for from two to four years can possibly understand the importance of being able to make his own decisions.

... However, many G.I.s realize that merely providing free schooling, Government-guaranteed loans and unemployment protection does not mean that all their problems will be solved by the G.I. Bill of Rights.

... Many of the G.I.s also want compulsory high school education for all, slum clearance, low-cost housing projects and universal or group hospital and medical care. If these come into being, they feel that the better world they have heard so much about will actually come about in their and their children's time. . . .

**U. S. Population Estimated 139,682,000.**—A population increase of more than eight million was registered during the five years ended July 1, almost equal to the 8,894,000 increase in the 10 years ended in 1940, the Department of Commerce has announced.

The population on July 1, 1945, was estimated at 139,682,000.

In the 3½ years ended July 1, births totaled 10,569,000.

This was more than double the 5,137,000 deaths, not counting war casualties.

The marriage rate reached a new height at 13.5 per 1,000 of population as of 1942. In the 3½ years ended July 1, 1945, marriages totaled 5,477,000.

Peak employment, reached in July, 1943, was nearly 55 million. In late 1944, factory employment was 17,250,000, about double that of 1939.

Female employment increased more than seven million in the five years between 1940 and 1945, to 18,200,000.

Unemployment in July, 1944, had hit a new low of one million, or less than 2 per cent of the labor force. This compared with an unemployment ratio of 15 per cent of the total labor force or 8,410,000 in July, 1940.

## MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

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*San Francisco*

### Birth Certificates

*California Health and Safety Code*, Section 10150, provides that the birth of each child born in the State of California must be registered pursuant to statute. Except in sparsely settled districts, or where there is no direct mail communication with the County Seat, a certificate of birth must be filed within four days after the date of each birth with the local Registrar of the district in which the birth occurred.

If a physician was in attendance upon the birth, the duty of filing the certificate is imposed, by Section 10178 of the Health and Safety Code, upon the physician. Section 10180 also provides that the father or mother of the child, the householder or owner of the premises where the birth occurred, or the manager or superintendent of the public or private institution where the birth occurred, each in the order named, shall, within ten days after the date of the birth, report the fact of birth to the local Registrar. Under Section 10180, any information which the physician is unable to fill in on the form of birth certificate prescribed by the statute, must be obtained by the local Registrar from the person reporting the birth. There is, then, a double requirement imposed by the Vital Statistics statute, viz.: (1) That the attending physician file a birth certificate; and (2) That one of the other persons named in Section 10180 report the birth. The form of birth certificate prescribed by Section 10200 of the Health and Safety Code requires that the attending physician sign a certificate as to his attendance at birth, including a statement of the hour of birth.

We have found no cases in California interpreting Section 10178, the section which requires the attending physician to file a birth certificate, and no case in which the validity of this section has been questioned. It has been held in other states, however, that the state may, in the exercise of its police power, lawfully require a physician to report to the proper authority for registration of the fact of a birth which has come under his or her observation. *Robinson v. Hamilton* 60 Iowa 134, 25 Am. Jur. 320.

A decision of the Ohio Supreme Court, *State v. Boone*, 84 Ohio 346, is summarized in Volume 25 Am. Jur. at page 320, as follows:

"But a statute requiring an investigation and notification as to facts not necessarily or naturally coming

† Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from the syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.